

(U) Designation of User for Program 437

USAF [illeg]

1. (U) Reference: the USAF letter to [2 words illeg] (info copy to Hq ADC), subject: Early Satellite Intercept Capability, Program 437, dated 15 February 1963.

2. ([illeg]) The referenced letter indicated that (subject to national policy ramifications) when Program 437 became operational, responsibility would be transferred to ADC "if appropriate." Consequent events have demonstrated that a more positive [illeg] of ADC as the Using Command is needed now.

3. ([illeg]) Although Program 437 may have only limited operational potential, it would be the first Air Force system of its kind and could be a first step toward a more operationally oriented satellite intercept program. Price considerations include Commander [illeg] responsibilities as [5 words illeg] on Air Force pattern" and, [8 words illeg] and provide Air Force forces to defend and [2 words illeg] against resources attack." These responsibilities require that ADC acquire the experience and knowledge necessary to operate and support follow-on systems. this can be [illeg] only if full participation with AFSC during the Acquisitions phase of Program 437 as all is definitely [4 words illeg] designated as the Using Command during the Operational Phase.

4. ([illeg]) To date, this Command has actively participated in Program 437 and fully not every request for support, including highly qualified key personnel, manpower spaces, studies, operational concepts, etc., on a top priority and frequently crash tests. I am confident my successor will continue this policy, however, it is becoming increasingly difficult to justify diversion of our limited resources from assigned missiles to one that is so [illeg].

5. ([illeg]) If ADC is to be designated the User we must take an increasingly active role and become familiar with the detailed arrangements and agreements being consummated by AFSC with SAC, MATS, ATC, AFDC, other governmental agencies and civilian contractors. Planning in long lead time areas such as Personnel and Manpower, Budgets, Material, [2 words illeg], and [illeg] safety must be initiated now. Failure to designate ADC as the User greatly inhibits such planning actions.

17 Aug 62

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3 Jul 1963

(U) Designation of User for Program 437

USAF (AFMCS)

ADLPR

1. (U) Reference: the USAF letter to the UAC (info copy to the AUC), subject: Early Satellite Intercept Capability, Program 437, dated 15 February 1963.

ADLDR

2. (U) The referenced letter indicated that (subject to national policy considerations) when Program 437 became operational, responsibility would be transferred to AUC "if appropriate." Subsequent events have demonstrated that a more positive designation of AUC as the Using Command is needed now.

3. (U) Although Program 437 may have only limited operational potential, it would be the first Air Force system of its kind and could be a first step toward a more operationally oriented satellite intercept system. From considerations of the Commander, USAF's responsibilities as "Principal Member" to the NATO/US Air Force pattern, and, as a major Air Commander, the security, train, equip and support the Air Force forces to defend the United States against aerospace attack. These responsibilities require that AUC acquire the experience and knowledge necessary to operate and support follow-on systems. This can be achieved only by full participation with AFM during the Acquisition Phase of Program 437 to call on critical resources that it will be designated as the Using Command during the Operational Phase.

4. (U) To date, this Command has actively participated in Program 437 and fully met every request for its part, including highly qualified key personnel, manpower, space, studies, operational concepts, etc., on a top priority and frequently crash basis. I am confident my successor will continue this policy, however, it is becoming increasingly difficult to justify diversion of our limited resources from assigned missions to one that is so tenuous.

5. (U) If AUC is to be designated the User we must take an increasingly active role and become familiar with the detailed arrangements and agreements being consummated by AFM with SAC, MATS, ATC, AFM, other governmental agencies and civilian contractors. Planning in long lead time areas such as Personnel and Manpower, Budgets, Materiel, base tenancy, and range safety must be initiated now. Failure to designate AUC as the User greatly inhibits such planning action.

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## TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

6. ([illeg]) Designation of ADC as the User of Program 437 would be consistent with Air Force organizational principles pertaining to Unity of Command and Homogenous Assignment. It would support the Air Force position that space is an extension of the atmosphere and be a step toward our objective to be the dominant military service in space. It would establish ADC's role in space defense with CINCNORAD and greatly facilitate integrating the weapon and the control environment into a more effective weapon system.

7. (U) I recommend (a) that ADC be unequivocally designated now as the User of Program 437 when it becomes operational and (b) that ADC and AFSC be directed to initiate required planning actions to insure an orderly transfer of responsibilities at IOC.

6. (S) Designation of ADC as the User of Program 437 would be consistent with Air Force organizational principles pertaining to Unity of Command and Homogeneous Assignment. It would support the Air Force position that space is an extension of the atmosphere and be a step toward our objective to be the dominant military service in space. It would establish ADC's role in space defense with CINCPAC and greatly facilitate integrating the weapon and the control environment into a more effective weapons system.

7. (U) I recommend (a) that ADC be unequivocally designated now as the User of Program 437 when it becomes operational and (b) that ADC and AFSC be directed to initiate required planning actions to insure an orderly transfer of responsibilities at IOC.